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Use of PCR with feces for detection of *Helicobacter pylori* infections in patients

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PCR was performed for the detection of *Helicobacter pylori* in feces from 24 patients with proven infections. Several precautions were taken to overcome possible inhibition of PCR with feces. In the first 12 patients, feces were examined shortly after endoscopy. In another group of 12 patients, who were treated during 2 weeks with omeprazole (40 mg each day) to increase gastric pH, feces were examined as well. *H. pylori* target DNA could not be detected in the stools of any of the 24 infected patients. It was concluded that there was no substantial shedding of *H. pylori* in feces from either group of patients.

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